



# AREA 11 DELEGATE'S REPORT

VOLUME 27, NUMBER 8

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## Area 11 General Service Committee

### Links to information:

### Box 4-5-9 Summer Edition

In this issue, read about

- The 73<sup>rd</sup> General Service Conference and Conference Advisory Actions
- Learn how members are bringing virtual meetings to correctional settings
- Read the first in a new series "Inside A.A. Finance" and much more!

### Save the Date!

The Area 11 Fall Assembly will be held on **Sunday, November 5**. It will be a hybrid event with the in-person portion held at the Pitkin Center in Wethersfield.

### 2021-2023 A.A. Service Manual

View as a PDF [here](#), or scan the QR Code



### First GSC Virtual Sharing Session

As the result of an Advisory Action of the 73<sup>rd</sup> General Service Conference, the General Service Conference met for a Virtual Sharing Session on August 16, 2023. The session was strategically timed 2 weeks after Board weekend to allow for updates from the Board members and discussion on topics pertinent to the Conference and the Fellowship. As per the Advisory Action, the agenda was set by the GSB Chair and the Delegate Chair. Some of my personal takeaways from this session were:

- The agenda was essentially each of the Board and committee chairs reading through the minutes of their committee with no opportunity for Q&A until the very end
- It became obvious that communication in each of the regions remains very inconsistent in timing and content (we remain very well informed here in the Northeast)
- While it was great to see all the members of the Conference, I did not feel much was gained from this session and I found myself frustrated by the lack of opportunity for open discussion
- There are several Advisory Actions and committee considerations from the Conference that have not yet gotten the attention that they should and we are almost halfway through the year

We have received communication that the feedback about the session has been received and heard. They are completely reformatting the agenda and are going to be providing more opportunity to discuss items of importance to the Fellowship. As the inaugural session, it was sure to have its flaws, and I am hoping that we can continue to improve

the communication and "foster unity, trust and transparency in the Fellowship", as it states in the Advisory Action.

### 73<sup>rd</sup> GSC Final Conference Report is now available!

As per an Advisory Action passed at this year's 73<sup>rd</sup> General Service Conference, an anonymity protected copy of the Final Conference Report is now available for download on AA.org! You can access it by clicking [here](#).

### Alternate Delegate's Corner

Our Delegate, Mary, and I take part in a monthly meeting with the Delegates and Alternate Delegates of the NorthEast Region. Most recently, this group had a lengthy series of discussions surrounding a shortfall that the Northeast Regional A.A. Service Assembly (NERAASA) experienced from this year's event. In essence, the event was not fully self-supporting due to higher costs and lower than anticipated walk-in registrations. One idea was to have each of the Delegates ask their respective Areas to consider making a voluntary contribution to the event in an amount that would replenish the reserve fund. After much debate and discussion surrounding this topic, no formal motion was brought or considered. What this means is, as of now, NERAASA is fully operational, though not operating with a full prudent reserve. Our collective conscience as Delegates and Alternates, by not taking action, was seemingly one of faith that NERAASA will get back on track - not to begin turning large "profits" each year, but to make better strides to be fully self-supporting moving forward. If you've never been to a NERAASA or if you're wondering how regional events such as NERAASA or the Northeast Regional Forum (NERF) may add a dimension to your journey in service, please reach out to your General Service Representative or District Committee Member for more information.

### 73<sup>rd</sup> G.S.C. Activity

**Report and Charter:** The Conference Committee on Report and Charter will be meeting in the coming weeks to discuss feedback on the Final Conference Report, as well as review updates on Advisory Actions that came out of our committee. One such Advisory Action that is of particular interest is the requested rewrites of certain chapters of the Service Manual.

**Conference Activities:** The deadline for submission of proposed agenda items for the 74<sup>th</sup> GSC is September 15, 2023. The next Board weekend is October 27-30. The full General Service Conference body will meet virtually approximately 2 weeks following Board weekend for a sharing session.

### Regional/International Events

#### Northeast Regional A.A. Service Assembly (NERAASA)

February 22-25, 2024

Hershey, PA

For registration flyer, click [here](#)

Information on NERAASA can be found here:

<https://www.neraasa.org/>

#### 2025 International Convention!

July 3-6, 2025

Vancouver, BC Canada

Find up-to-date information [here](#).

### SCHEDULED EVENTS IN AREA 11:

#### 64<sup>th</sup> Annual Area 11 Convention

“The Journey Continues”

October 13-15, 2023

Sheraton Hartford Hotel at Bradley Windsor Locks, CT

For more information, including the program and how to book your room, click [here](#)

Click [here](#) to register for the event

#### Connecticut State Convention for Young People in AA (CSCYPAA) 38

November 24-26, 2023

Registration is now open! Click [here](#) for more information, including how to register and book your room!

### General Service Board Updates

**Updated Financial reports:** One of the topics that came up at the Conference this year is the need for more transparency in financial reporting, increased frequency in these reports and easier to understand formatting for the Fellowship as a whole. While this continues to be a topic of great interest among members of the Conference and at gatherings, such as regional service events and forums, there seem to be ongoing barriers to producing and providing these reports. With that said, click [here](#) for the most recent financial reports that were provided to the Conference members in advance of our recent Sharing session.

**Please note that these are unaudited and are intended for AA members only.**

Please do not post these on any internet platforms or social media sites.

#### Survey on Participation of Online

**Groups (POG):** The General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous currently has an Ad Hoc Committee on the Participation of Online Groups in the U.S./Canada Service Structure that is gathering information and is currently looking for input directly from the membership. Below is a link to a survey they have put together and all members are encouraged to participate. The survey is a bit broad. Please feel free to be as specific or general as you feel is helpful. The deadline for submitting feedback is **Friday, October 6, 2023.** Please click [here](#).

### A.A.W.S./G.S.O. Updates

**GSO Staff update:** Longtime GSO staff member Jeff W., Staff Coordinator, will be retiring in October 2023. If you are attending the Area 11 bus trip next week and see him around the office, make sure to wish him well in his retirement!

**Data Integrity update:** In January 2023, GSO staff kicked off an officewide A.A.W.S. Data Integrity Project with a

workgroup made up of representatives from multiple departments. The purpose of this project is to identify issues with the data in the ERP system (Fellowship Connection), develop approaches to resolve these issues and investigate ways to mitigate future issues. To read more about this initiative and an update on the progress, please click [here](#).

**Publishing updates:** For updates on printing delays and backorders due to supply chain disruptions, click [here](#).

**Public Information update:** The Public Information Desk at GSO provides regular press releases to convey information about A.A. to the general public. Read their most recent press release “[Understanding Alcoholics Anonymous and Spirituality](#)”.

### A.A. Grapevine/La Viña Updates

**Grapevine and La Viña app update:**

The apps are live!!! Download the apps for free from the Apple App Store for iPhone, or from Google Play for Android. Subscribe to the digital magazine and archive for \$2.99 per month, or \$29.99 per year. With a subscription, you'll be able to read the new magazine each month, explore the Grapevine or La Viña archive, send stories to friends, listen to the audio of each article in the magazine, listen to the podcast, enter your own sobriety date for a daily calculation, build your own spiritual maintenance daily checklist, and much more. For more information, click [here](#). Grapevine and La Viña staff have also created an FAQ to help answer many of the questions that have arisen. You can access that by clicking [here](#).

**Grapevine Job Opening:** Grapevine currently has a job opening for a full-time Digital Engagement Editor. For more information or to apply, please click [here](#).

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Please feel free to copy this report and circulate it as needed within A.A. Groups, Districts, and A.A. Service Committees.

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